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JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

Report of the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Richard Butler AM, on the basis of informal consultations

Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS

1. At its substantive session of 1994, the Economic and Social Council decided that consultations should be held, inter alia, on the question of the composition of the Programme Coordination Board for the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS (resolution 1994/24). The Council called on me, as President of the Council at the time of the adoption of resolution 1994/24, to undertake these consultations.

2. I am pleased to report that the following agreement has been reached:

- The Programme Coordination Board should comprise 22 elected members, distributed as follows:

  5 members from African States;

  5 members from Asian States;

  3 members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

  2 members from Eastern European States;

  7 members from Western European and other States.

- The members will be elected for a term of three years.

- In order to provide continuity on the Board, following the first election, there will be a drawing of lots, by which one third of those elected would serve for a term of one year, one third for a term of two years and one third for a term of three years.

- The first elections will be conducted by the Economic and Social Council.

- The question of the body or bodies in which subsequent elections will be conducted will be a matter for further consultation.

- Further consultation will also be required on the question of the participation in the Board of representatives of the six co-sponsoring organizations and non-governmental organizations.

- In addition to States Members of the United Nations, observer States will also be able to submit their candidacy for election.

- It is proposed that the first elections take place in the Council on 1 June 1995, at which time it is expected that the Council will meet to consider further the programme of work of the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme on the basis, inter alia, of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations.

3. In arriving at these decisions, a particular issue was addressed, namely, the group from which Japan would be eligible for election. It was agreed that Japan would be included among the Asian States. This agreement led to the decision that the Board should have 22 members rather than 21.

4. It is emphasized that, in arriving at this agreement, it was recognized by all that the agreement was unique to the Joint and Co-sponsored Programme and its Programme Coordination Board. Therefore, it did not and could not form the basis of a precedent to be followed in other organs.

5. It is also emphasized that this agreement reflects the very serious concern of all that the Programme should be given a Programme Coordination Board without further delay in order to facilitate its substantive work.

6. For these reasons, I urge acceptance by the Council of this agreement and of the proposal that the Board be elected on 1 June 1995.

7. I wish to record my deep gratitude for the cooperation and flexibility shown by all who took part in the consultations.